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April 26, 1996

MFN 056-96  
Docket 52-004

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Subject: Modified Closure Plan for SBWR - Request for Additional Review

- References:
1. Letter MFN 034-96, J.E. Quinn (GE) to T.R. Quay (NRC), SBWR - Redirecting Focus, dated March 4, 1996.
  2. Letter MFN 036-96, J.E. Quinn (GE) to T.R. Quay (NRC), TRACG - Redirecting Focus, dated March 13, 1996.
  3. NRC Letter, D.M. Crutchfield(NRC) to J.E. Quinn(GE), Status of the Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (SBWR) Test Programs and TRACG Review, dated April 12, 1996

References 1 and 2 informed NRC that GE Nuclear Energy was redirecting the focus of its Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (SBWR) programs from plants of the 670 MWe size to plants of 1,000 MWe or larger. The attachment to Reference 1, and Reference 2 identified the open activities, the desired NRC review output, and GE-NE's proposed schedule. After evaluating the GE-NE submittals, NRC responded in Reference 3.

However since the issuance of References 1 and 2, several meetings have been held with domestic and international utilities who sponsored work on the SBWR 670 MWe plant. The utilities have provided strong input that they would like to go further than indicated in References 1 and 2 with the efforts on TRACG qualification for SBWR application. This would entail additional review of reports by NRC. This additional closure effort would maximize the value of the work done to date by both GE-NE and NRC, and would provide a more solid basis for future use of the data, and use of TRACG as an analytical tool for the larger size SBWRs.

Representatives of domestic and international utilities, EPRI, and GE-NE would like to meet with you and your staff to discuss this additional activity in more detail and to

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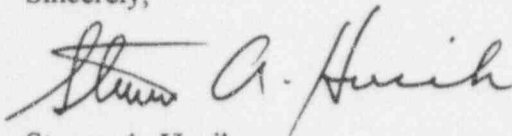
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explore the feasibility of the proposed alternative, including the availability and timing of NRC resources for the additional reviews. We recognize the priority issues you and your staff face but request your direct involvement to understand the needs and help support whatever you can provide. This is important to the many entities involved.

We appreciate your attention to this matter as it is an important issue to the utility sponsors, EPRI, and to GE-NE. I will ask Mr. J. E. Quinn to work with your staff to establish a mutually agreeable date and time. We suggest May 28th to facilitate maximum utility participation. Please call me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steven A. Hucik".

Steven A. Hucik

cc: J.E. Quinn (GE)  
SAH:96-033